



# NEWS RELEASE

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040

Voice (785) 271-2700, FAX (785) 271-2708, WEB [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 3, 2006

Contact- Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

## ***USDA Rural Development Announces Another Record Funding Year Delivered To Kansas***

**Nearly \$258 million in programs benefiting Kansans provided in 2006 Fiscal Year.**

Topeka, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today announced the fourth year in a row of record funding delivered to Kansas during Fiscal Year 2006. With an outstanding network of valued partners across the State and a dedicated Agency staff, USDA Rural Development administered an all-time record \$257,750,377 in program funds benefiting Kansas during the recently completed 2006 Fiscal Year.

“USDA Rural Development appreciates the opportunity to provide much needed community and economic development programming for Kansas. These programs result in more jobs, better housing and an improved quality of life for Kansans. To more effectively leverage these important taxpayer-supported programs, the Agency partners with both the public and private sector organizations. The outstanding partnerships enjoyed by the Agency allows more taxpayer dollars to return to Kansas, funding invested in our State to benefit all Kansans,” remarked State Director Banks.

Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$1 billion in funding to expand single family homeownership, multi-family and senior rental housing, community facilities, economic development, water and waste disposal, renewable energy and energy efficiency, telecommunications, and value-added producer programs across Kansas. Agency funding has benefited over a million Kansans during this period, and has supported more than \$4 billion for economic development in Kansas.

USDA Rural Development programming during FY 2006 assisted Kansas rural communities in supporting over 500 jobs, with more than 400,000 Kansans benefiting from various Agency-financed community development projects. Additionally, USDA's rural housing program area helped over 1,200 Kansas families purchase a new single-family residence or renovate their existing home; another 7,000 families also were provided access to safe and affordable rental housing. Thousands more rural Kansans are being served daily by Agency programming through essential community facilities, rural hospitals, water service, and electric or telecommunications projects.

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts, in congratulating the Agency on its successful FY 2006 programming said, “Time and again the USDA Rural Development office in Kansas sets the bar for success. I am proud of Chuck Banks and his team's remarkable accomplishments in administering and delivering programs that help promote rural homeownership, economic development, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and business programs in Kansas. These initiatives provide true momentum in ensuring the viability and quality of life found along the back roads of Kansas.”

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback also commented, "My congratulations to USDA Rural Development for another record year of funding in the state of Kansas. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which funds USDA and its various agencies, I am familiar with all the great programs Rural Development has for rural Kansans and proud of their success. This money will be reinvested in the rural parts of our state to stimulate job growth and economic development. This commitment to rural Kansas will continue to pay dividends for many years to come."

During today's announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's USDA Rural Development programs. We should all thank our U.S. Senators and Representatives for supporting this benefit for the entire State," remarked Banks.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, the Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency's Kansas website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

**USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the future of rural communities***